

How to Know God Personally, Right Now

PRINCIPLE ONE - God loves you and He wants to have a personal relationship with you.

“This is eternal life; that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.” (John 17:3)

God loves all mankind and wants a personal relationship with each of us. In fact, the prime objective of the creation is for God to obtain a people who He can love and who will love Him forever.¹ The Bible says that someday He will come back and take all who love Him to be with Him forever.² We call that place Heaven. And conversely, God will permanently separate from Himself all the people who do not love Him. We call that place Hell. (He may have come back once already but He will be back again. See the Tribulation Chart, Appendix B, right side.)

In order for people to love God, He had to create us with the capacity to both *love* and *not love* Him; because love only has meaning when freely given. If appreciation and gratefulness are present, we can give it. But, if appreciation and gratefulness are absent, even God cannot extract what is not there. So, love is what God wants, but what does He get? He gets people exercising their capacity to *not love* Him which appears as indifference, rebellion and everyone doing their own thing. In the Bible, this indifference, rebellion and everyone doing their own thing is called sin.

PRINCIPLE TWO - Man is a sinner and is separated from God.

“For all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.” (Romans 3:23)

“There is a way which seems right to a man, but it’s end is the way to death.” (Proverbs 14:12)

Man is a sinner because each has gone his own way and done his own thing since Adam lived.³ Each man has made himself boss of his own life. This means that man is a higher authority in his own life than God because man trusts his own leading rather than God’s leading.

Since God does not want trouble in His presence, He separated Himself from Adam, and we have been separated ever since. One cannot go to New York or anywhere else and find God. He is around but we cannot perceive Him with our five senses.

This separation, and man being boss of his own life, is a problem for God. It is a problem because the separation causes man to not be able to love God. You cannot love whom you do not know. You cannot know whom you cannot perceive. And, you cannot perceive whom you do not believe exists. Therefore, left with this situation, God would not accomplish His goal of obtaining a people who would love Him forever. So, God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit agreed that God the Son, Jesus, who is called Christ, would come to Earth and reintroduce God to man.⁴ And this He did nearly 2000 years ago. Therefore, man must become convinced that God exists and that He is the rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.⁵

1. Ref. Luke 10:27; If loving Him is the greatest commandment of the law, then it also must be His highest objective. Why? Because, there is nothing greater that we can do.

2. I Thessalonians 4:16 with I John 2:5

3. Genesis 3:17-24

4. John 10:10

5. Hebrews 11:6

PRINCIPLE THREE -- Jesus Christ is God's only provision for man's sin. Through Him alone can we know God personally and experience His love.

“Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through me’” (John 14:6)

“But God demonstrates His own love towards us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” (Romans 5:8)

Jesus came to Earth and said to everyone, “I am God.”⁶ His disciples believed Him but the religious leaders of the day did not. And so the religious leaders crucified Him in a most horrible way. Can you imagine looking up at Jesus on the cross, His disciples on one side, the religious leaders on the other. Mere men torturing the High, Holy and Lifted Up Lord on the Universe!

But at the same time, Jesus proved His love for us by *staying* on the cross. The Father would have taken Him off the Cross if Jesus had asked.⁷ The Bible says He had the power to call down hundreds of angels; enough power to destroy everyone in the world.⁸ But He did not. He was kind to us when we were cruel to Him. While He endured excruciating pain, He said, “Father, forgive them for they know not what they do.”⁹

But let's not be too quick to judge the religious leaders because you and I are just as guilty of crucifying Him as they. Why? Because, we have not believed that He was God come in the flesh either. He asked, “Who do men say that I am?”¹⁰ And we ask the same question to you today. Is He God or is He not? He proved who He was by fulfilling over 800 prophecies given over 600 years before He lived on this Earth. The Father validated His claims and ministry by raising Jesus from the dead.

Jesus promised that if you would believe that He is who He says He is, that He would change your life now, and He would take you to Heaven later to be with Him forever. Give Him leadership of your life and He will make you successful by His standards. We all have thoughts which causes indifference and rebellion against God, which in turn, makes our lives unsuccessful. However, there is hope. The Bible says,

“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” (1 John 1:9)

He will change us so we can fit into Heaven's way of life. That is: how to have love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.¹¹ Thereby, we will become somewhat compatible with God by the time we do get to Heaven.

Because He is who He says He is, the Lord of the Universe, He is worthy to direct our lives. Because He first loved us, by not killing us when we killed Him, He is worthy to be loved.¹²

“But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become Children of God, even to those who believe on His name.” (John 1:12)

6. John 1:1, 14; John 5:18; John 10:30-33, 36-39; John 18:5-6; Col.2:9

7. Psalms 91:11

8. Matthew 26:53

9. Luke 23:34

10. Matthew 16:13-17

11. Galations 5:22-23

12. Romans 5:5-6

PRINCIPLE FOUR - We must individually accept Jesus as Saviour of our soul and Lord (Boss) of our life; then we can know God personally and experience His love.

To receive Him means to believe who He is, to accept His promises as applying to oneself and to cooperate with Him in changing one's own life. The Bible says,

“If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved; for with the heart man believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.” (Romans 10:9-10)

Agreeing that Jesus is God establishes His right to Lordship over one's own life. Appreciating who Jesus is and what he has done motivates us to *want* His leadership in our lives. Appreciating His leadership and living out His plan for our lives is the definition of love for God. Loving Jesus is the fulfillment of God's plan for the creation. It is by this plan that God will obtain a people who will love Him forever. Thus, our overview of God's plan is complete. The only question left: What do you believe? Jesus said,

“Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him.”¹³

If you have opened the door of your heart right now, you may want to talk to God in the form of a prayer which goes something like this:

“Lord Jesus, I want to know you personally. Thank you for dying on the cross for my sins. I open the door of my life and accept you as my Saviour and Lord. Thank you for forgiving my sins and giving me eternal life. Take control of my life and make me the kind of person You want me to be.”

When we receive Christ, we have experienced a new birth.¹⁴ In another place the Bible says,

“If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away, behold, all things become new.”

If you prayed the above prayer, part of the new you is your new point-of-view about Jesus and what He has done for you. You may have a fresh new hope for a better life. You may feel like a great burden has been lifted from your shoulders; as a result of giving Jesus responsibility for success of your life. You may feel a new appreciation and gratefulness toward God. If so, He is starting to fulfill His goal for your life: that you should love Him as He loves you. Now, didn't we say that was God's goal right from the start?

Where Do I Go From Here?

The Bible Says, “You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”¹⁵ The truth will free you from the influence of Satan's lies. The best thing you can do for yourself is to get a Bible and start reading it. You don't have to read much; between five minutes and one hour per day. Even five minutes is fine if you do it faithfully. Pick a time when it is easiest for you, preferably in the morning. God wants you to discover who he is and how to interact with Him.

For more help, continue reading on the website. You may want to print the website book, it may get deleted from the website????

If you have made a commitment to Jesus Christ, you may want to read the section in Chapter Six, marked “My Spiritual Position in Christ.” It will tell you how God sees you now, after your commitment.

Now you must go on with God, and follow through with your commitment to Him.

13. Revelation 3:20

14. John 3:3

15. John 8:32

